A Philatelic Trip Through Norway ROPEX, 2014

Overview:

Norway is a beautiful and varied country. From the midnight sun of the Arctic north, to the mountains of central Norway and all the way south to the rocky coastlines of the North Sea, Norway offers scenic beauty that can take your breath away. In addition, Norway boasts a long and rich history marked by Vikings, the Hanseatic League in Bergen, and a strategic position in World War II. In more current times, Norway is a powerhouse in the Winter Olympics, a world player in oil resources, and the host nation of the Noble Peace Prize.

Treatment:

In this exhibit, the beauty, cultural history, and human and material resources of Norway will be displayed through a systematic presentation of the country's 19 fylkes (counties). From the Lappland region of Finnmark on the Arctic Ocean, to the fjords of Sogn og Fjordane and Rogaland in the south, the sites, cities, and people of the country will be viewed through the eyes of the country's diverse postal releases. In addition to stamps and covers depicting scenes and people from the 19 fylke, postmarks will be shown from many of the villages and municipalities that slightly over 5 million Norwegians call home.

Challenge Factor:

Most of the stamps in this display are common Norwegian stamps of the last 60 years and most are postally used. The later aspect reflects the bias of the exhibiter to collect and present items that were actually deployed for their intended use. The postmark section required some search and partial postmarks needed identification through postal codes or elimination searches, but the primary challenge to this exhibit was organizational and research related. To the extent that the viewer can follow the presentation from north to south while learning a bit about each of the diverse flyke of Norway through stamps then the exhibition succeeds. If the various items in the 4 frames appear disjointed, or they cannot easily be placed in the context of a Norwegian philatelic travelogue, then I have failed.